

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 PM-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 IGA-02

XMB-07 EB-11 MC-02 OMB-01 DRC-01 /135 W

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P 060542Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8450 PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID, MILL, RP

SUBJECT: AP STORY ON MILITARY USES OF EXCESS PROPERTY AND EXIM
FINANCED PLANES

REFS: A) STATE 199158; B) MANILA 11384

1. RE BEAVER AIRCRAFT: ABOUT A YEAR AGO THE 30
AIRCRAFT OF THIS TYPE EXCESS TO NEEDS IN SOUTH VIETNAM
WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE GOVT OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF MAIL SERVICE TO REMOTE
AND UNSERVICED ISLANDS. FOR A SHORT PERIOD EARLY
THIS YEAR SEVERAL PLANES WERE PRESSED INTO SERVICE BY
THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE FOR SCOUTING AND
SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS TO DEAL WITH THE MUSLIM
INSURGENCY IN THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES. AS A
PROTECTIVE DEVICE, THE PLANES WERE EQUIPPED WITH LIGHT
MACHINE GUNS. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT ALL ARMS WERE
SUBSEQUENTLY REMOVED AND THAT THE PLANES HAVE BEEN
RESTORED TO THEIR PREVIOUS USES FOR POSTAL AND
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE (CROP DUSTING).

2. COMMENT: THE GOP IS QUITE SENSITIVE TO THE NEED
TO SEPARATE CIVILIAN AND MILITARY USE OF ASSISTANCE
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PROVIDED THROUGH THE US AID EXCESS PROPERTY PROGRAM.

US AID DIRECTOR PROMPTLY BROUGHT THE UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THESE PLANES TO THE ATTENTION OF THE HIGHEST AUTHORITIES IN THE PHILIPPINE GOVT WHO TOOK ACTION TO RESTORE THE PLANES TO CIVILIAN USE.

3. RE EXIM BANK-FINANCED L 100-20 AIRCRAFT: WE HAVE DEFINITE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE L 100-20'S HAVE BEEN USED TO TRANSPORT MILITARY PERSONNEL AND CONSIDER PROBABLE THAT AIRCRAFT IN SOME INSTANCES HAVE FERRIED ARMED TROOPS. PRESS HAS CARRIED PHOTOS OF TROOPS DEBARKING FROM L 100-20 AT MANILA, RETURNING FROM DUTY IN MINDNANO.

4. COMMENT: AS NOTED REF B, WE DO NOT KNOW EXACT WORDING OF CERTIFICATION GIVEN TO EXIM BANK RE NON-MILITARY USE OF L 100-20'S, BUT WE PRESUME IT LEFT SOME LATITUDE TO GOP TO TRANSPORT MILITARY PERSONNEL: E.G., AT LEAST FOR CIVIC ACTION, DISASTER RELIEF AND SIMILAR PURPOSES. IT WAS ALSO CLEAR THAT PLANES WOULD BE FLOWN BY PHIL AIR FIRCE CREWS. EMBASSY WONDERS IF EXIM BANK HAS TAKEN ANY ACTION TO MONITOR GOP CERTIFICATION THROUGH PHIL EMBASSY WASHINGTON, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WAS CHANNEL FOR FINAL NEGOTIATION OF LOAN.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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